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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34 and 79 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 12 February 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my great honour to forward to you herewith the text of the address delivered by Mr. Askar A. Akaev, President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (see annex) as an offical answer to a distorted reaction to the recent Kyrgyz-Israeli diplomatic negotiations and their results received by some international mass media.

In conformity with my President's request, may I have the privilege also to ask you to circulate the text of the present letter and the aforementioned address as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 34 and 79 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Djoumakadyr A. ATABEKOV

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ANNEX

Letter dated 10 February 1993 from the President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the Secretary-General

I present my compliments to you and take great pleasure in extending to you cordial greetings and best wishes for success in your efforts to promote peace and progress and further strengthen the international community.

As a Member of the United Nations, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan considers respect for the experience and opinion of the international community, expressed in United Nations documents, as absolute priorities of its foreign policy. It is in this connection that I should like to draw your attention to the principal elements of my Middle East policy. I consider this essential in view of the fact that, in a number of countries, the media have provided imprecise, and at times incorrect, information about my official visit to Israel in January of this year.

Kyrgyzstan fully understands the vital interests of both Arabs and Jews. We welcome the talks that are being held between the Arab countries and Israel. In our view, peace in the Middle East is of importance not only to the countries of that region. It is also of importance to Kyrgyzstan, since it will help stabilize the situation in the entire Islamic world.

We believe that the Palestinian people has an unconditional right to self-determination and State sovereignty.

Kyrgyzstan is in favour of just and secure frontiers between Israel and the Arab countries.

The question of the status of Jerusalem must be settled through negotiations among the parties concerned in the context of achieving a comprehensive, just and stable peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980).

People of all denominations must have access to the Holy Places of Jerusalem, and the City must remain undivided.

Kyrgyzstan's decision to establish a diplomatic presence in Israel will depend on the results of the peace talks between Israel and the Arab countries. In this regard, we will, of course, take into consideration the opinion of the United Nations.

I should be grateful, if you consider it possible and expedient, if you would have this letter circulated in the United Nations.

I enclose herewith the text of the address I delivered at the official welcoming ceremony in Jerusalem on 19 January 1993, which demonstrates the consistency of our Middle East policy.

(Signed) A. AKAEV

APPENDIX

Address delivered by the Republic of Kyrgyzstan at the official welcoming ceremony in Jerusalem on 19 January 1993

Distinguished President Chaim Herzog,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great emotion that I have set foot on the sacred ground of great and beautiful Jerusalem, a city immortalized in the words of the prophets and in the hearts of millions of people of past and living generations.

I have come in order to gain a better understanding of Israel, and in order for Israel to gain a better understanding of us.

Such a goal is, in itself, extremely important and necessary to both our countries. It is a precondition for the successful establishment of ties between Kyrgyzstan and Israel in the most diverse fields: economic, political, cultural and humanitarian.

We are interested in establishing and developing relations with Israel on the basis of partnership and friendship. I hope that, in your country, Mr. President, we shall encounter similar ideas and moods. I am convinced that vigorous contacts both at the State level and at the level of civilian contacts between our and your politicians and businessmen, scientists and cultural figures, would be mutually advantageous.

We have something to say to each other, something with which to complement each other in this world. Our countries have had much in common in the past and will have very much in common in the future. Democracy and freedom, diverse forms of property and management, a social market economy - these are your and our ideals.

Kyrgyzstan understands Israel's current problems and the tireless efforts of the State of Israel in connection with Aliyah. The people of Israel, who for centuries experienced persecution, suffering and humiliation, has the sacred right to return to its historical homeland. As does any other people.

I shall say very frankly that we would not like to part with the Jews living in Kyrgyzstan. They are a part of our people. Together we lived through the difficult war years, years of shared losses and shared victories.

Kyrgyzstan welcomes the talks that are being held between Israel and the Arab States. Peace in the Middle East is of importance not only to the inhabitants of this region. It is also of importance to Kyrgyzstan, since it will help stabilize the situation in the entire Islamic world.

I pray to God that a just settlement of the long and agonizing conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples will at last be found; that would enable the Palestinian people to gain long-awaited independence.

We are in favour of just and secure frontiers between Israel and the Arab countries. We hope that eternal Jerusalem, ancient and modern Jerusalem, will never again be divided and that it will always remain a united city in which Jews, Muslims and Christians live in friendship and peace.

Peace and happiness to the people of Israel.